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ST. IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR 1952

THE RIDLEY PRESS, ST. IVES AND CAMBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF SAINT IVES
IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1952

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present my third Annual
Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the
Area for the year 1952.*

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. M. MARKHAM,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

G. H. PHIPPS, Cert. S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. G. REESON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.I., Cert. Bldg. Inspr.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (middle 1952)	...	...	14,053
Population (middle 1951)	...	...	12,650
Area	...	...	45,911 acres
Rateable Value (April 1952)	...	...	£55,813
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Net Product)	...	...	£229
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,719

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M.	F.	Total	Birth-rate per 1,000
Legitimate ...	114	88	202	estimated population 19.2
Illegitimate ...	9	7	16	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 15.3
Total ...	123	95	218	
Still Births				Rate per 1,000 esti-
Legitimate ...	1	2	3	mated population ... 0.26
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 0.35
Total ...	1	2	3	
Deaths				Death-rate per 1,000
(all ages) ...	74	57	131	estimated population 11.5
				(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 11.3
Deaths of Infants under one year	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	1
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	2
	—	—	—	3
	Total	1	2	3
	—	—	—	
Death-rates of Infants under one year				
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	13.8
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	27.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				14.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				—

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause					M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	1
3	Syphilitic	...	...	...	...	0	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	4	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	15	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	2
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	14	7
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	6	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	0
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0
Totals all causes						74	57

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available in this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. Tel.: Huntingdon 59.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases.

(i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.

(ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.

(iii) A nurse residing in Hemingford Abbots (Tel.: St. Ives 3119) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.

(iv) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 226) attended cases in Earith, Bluntisham, Colne and Holywell-cum-Needlingworth.

(v) A nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.

(vi) A nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic, Station Approach St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Room, Somersham. Baptist Chapel, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m. Every Wednesday (ex- cept 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Health Clinic Station Approach St. Ives Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	23
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Acute Pneumonia		...	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		...	...	...	...	...	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).

AGE at 31.12.52 (as regards C).

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
A. Number of Children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1952	42	38	2	—	1	27	15	125
B. Number of Children who received a Secondary (Reinforcing) Injection (<i>i.e.</i> subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ended 31st December, 1952	—	—	—	—	5	97	38	140
C. Number of Children at 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (<i>i.e.</i> at any time since 1st January, 1938)	5	78	107	132	139	732	552	1745

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics, through the School Medical Service, and from General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on register at 31st December 1952: 41

Pulmonary: 25

Non-Pulmonary: 16

AGE PERIODS				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	I	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..
Not known	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				4	3	I	2	I	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1). **Water.**—Following the completion of the main extension to the Fen areas of Somersham, Pidley and Warboys, the district is covered with a network of mains that supply not only the villages, but practically every group of houses in each parish

The problem of distribution, therefore, except for supplies to isolated farms and cottages has been solved, but this has raised another problem, that of supply.

The district is supplied with water by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board and by Huntingdon Rural District Council, from whom the Council purchases water in bulk.

The resources of all three suppliers are stretched to the limit and both the Joint Boards are endeavouring to augment their supplies; Huntingdon Rural District Council have stated that they are unable to increase the daily quantity of 39,000 gallons which they agreed to supply to the Council under the arrangement whereby they established pumping plant in the river gravels at Houghton. The Council, therefore, in order to protect the domestic consumer has had to restrict the supplies allowed to industry and for non-domestic purposes with a consequent loss of revenue.

The domestic consumption per head of the population is low, approximately 20 gallons per head per day, and with the increasing demands of agriculture and its associated industries it will be necessary for additional supplies to be made available before the district as a whole can derive the maximum advantage from the network of mains that it has been the policy of the Council to provide.

(2). Following complaints of the staining and destruction of aluminium and tin-plated cooking utensils in houses that had been provided with copper service pipes, an investigation as to the possible causes was carried out.

The Copper Development Association and the Non-Ferrous Metals Association were approached for their opinion and samples of water were taken for analysis. It is likely that the trouble is caused by the high dissolved carbon dioxide content of the water, and there does not appear to be any reasonable economic method of reducing this.

From the analysts' reports, given below, it seems that the water has the same action on non-arsenical as on arsenical copper, and once the pipes have been installed the copper content in the water soon falls to approximately 0.14 parts per 100,000, and so far has remained fairly constant.

Date of Sample	Arsenical copper pipes Parts per 100,000	Non-Arsenical copper pipes Parts per 100,000
21.5.52	0.15	0.30
23.6.52	0.08	0.20
8.8.52	0.10	0.08
29.10.52	0.11	0.18
4.12.52	0.13	0.14

Following the results of the examinations, the Council decided not to use any copper service pipes in their own houses in the future.

(3). A summary of the water supplied to each parish is given on Page 9.

1. (2). **Drainage and Sewerage.**—Following the Public Inquiry on the 27th November, 1951, into the Council's Main Drainage Scheme, the Ministry of Housing and Local Govern-

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Source of Supply	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Results of Analyses	Number of Analyses	Estimated No. of Dwellings Supplied		
						Direct from Mains Supply	By Stand-pipes	By Public or Private Wells
1. Bluntisham	Public mains	Adequate	Good	Satisfactory	94 samples taken from mains supply.	178	1	1
2. Broughton	"	"	"	"	"	50	14	16
3. Bury	"	"	"	"	"	124	10	7
4. Colne	"	"	"	"	"	120	21	6
5. Earith	"	"	"	"	5 samples unsatisfactory.	168	29	17
6. Fenstanton	"	"	"	"	"	261	18	51
7. Hemingford Abbots	"	"	"	"	"	101	4	33
8. Hemingford Grey	"	"	"	"	Repeat samples satisfactory	260	43	37
9. Hilton	"	"	"	"	"	79	7	15
10. Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	"	"	"	"	"	147	31	50
11. Houghton & Wyton	"	"	"	"	"	175	—	87
12. Oldhurst	"	"	"	"	"	77	4	3
13. Pidley-cum-Fenton	"	"	"	"	"	103	18	2
14. Somersham	"	"	"	"	"	346	49	88
15. Warboys	"	"	"	"	"	517	68	83
16. Wistow	"	"	"	"	"	78	12	10
	" (with exception of Fen Area)	"	"	Fen Area Unsatisfactory	"			
17. Woodhurst	Public mains	Adequate	Good	Satisfactory	"	64	17	12
				Totals		2848	346	518

ment has now approved, in principle, the schemes for the Parishes of Houghton and Wyton, Somersham and Warboys. They stated that the schemes for Warboys and Fenstanton should be deferred for the time being; further reports on the siting of the Fenstanton disposal works would be required, together with comparative estimates of the capital and maintenance costs of siting the works on higher ground.

Following this approval, Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Sons, the Council's Consulting Engineers, were instructed to proceed with the Somersham scheme and the scheme for Houghton and Wyton, in that order, and submit a further report to the Ministry on the Fenstanton schemes.

The provisional estimate of the cost of the Somersham scheme was £79,000, and for the Houghton and Wyton scheme £67,000. The Ministry has intimated that on the estimates submitted and subject to the schemes being approved for loan, they are prepared to allocate lump sum grants of £50,000 towards the cost of each of the schemes for Somersham and Houghton and Wyton, leaving a net sum of £46,000 to be met by the Council for the two schemes, towards which, a grant has not yet been allocated by the Huntingdonshire County Council. It is pleasing to record that the Ministry has approved the Council's main drainage scheme in principle and it is to be hoped that the first instalment will be commenced at Somersham in 1954, as the Council's Housing Development in that parish has been seriously curtailed owing to the absence of main drainage.

Following correspondence with the Ministry of Works, some negotiations were proceeding at the end of the year regarding the future use of the ex-R.A.F. Disposal Works at Oldhurst, which the Council's Consulting Engineers suggest could be utilised for some of the adjacent Parishes. No decision as to their acquisition or maintenance were, however, made in 1952.

The small disposal plants provided for the treatment of sewage from some of the Council's Housing Estates came into use during the year and no complaints were received that they were causing any nuisance.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The Great Ouse River Board have raised the river bank in various Parishes in the district, and the scheme for the raising of the flood banks at Houghton and Wyton, towards which the Council made a lump sum grant, was practically completed. A similar scheme for the raising of the flood banks at the Hemingfords has not yet been commenced.

In 1950 the Council decided to seek Counsel's opinion on their responsibility for the maintenance of brooks in the Parish Awards that were originally awarded to the Surveyor

of Highways. The opinion they received was that such responsibility had remained the liability of the Council. In October this year the Council decided to seek a further opinion as to their responsibilities in connection with Wistow Brook.

3. (1). **Closet Accommodation.**—Some conversions of pail closets to water closets have been carried out during the year by private owners. The Council have also converted closets in 22 of their own houses and this work will proceed systematically in the future.

3. (2). **Public Cleansing.**

(a) **Night Soil Collections.**—A weekly collection of night soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night soil loading attachments. Approximately 2,130 pails are emptied each week.

The labour position has eased slightly and no complaints were received during 1952 regarding the service, which has continued satisfactorily. A small quantity of night soil is distributed over agricultural land and some is used for composting straw stacks.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Works, however, the bulk of the night soil is disposed of by injection into the sewers at Oldhurst from where it is pumped to an ex-R.A.F. Sewage Disposal Works for treatment.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough Council, night soil is collected from Hartford which is within the area of that authority.

(b) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—A weekly kerb-side collection of refuse is made from practically every dwelling in the district. Two side loading vehicles and one moving floor rear loading vehicle are used to empty approximately 3,100 dustbins each week and the service has been satisfactorily maintained.

Disposal is carried out at two worked out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Needingworth respectively. A fair amount of earth cover is available at the tips which is spread over the refuse by means of a bulldozer.

By arrangement with the St. Ives Borough Council a weekly collection of domestic refuse is carried out in the borough by contract and tipped at Needingworth. Contract work for the collection of trade refuse was also undertaken in the borough and at two R.A.F. Stations situated in St. Ives Rural District. This work entails the emptying of 1,800 dustbins per week.

(c) **Salvage.**—Income from the sale of salvaged materials fell considerably during the latter end of 1952 due to the fall

in prices and the Council lost a useful source of revenue. The majority of the salvage work was therefore abandoned by the end of the year as it was found to be uneconomic to provide special collections for waste paper and textiles. The total income for the year was £83.

Besides the reduction of income, the increased paper and cardboard content of the refuse delivered to the tips meant that additional labour was required at the disposal points.

(d) **Cesspool Emptying.**—During 1952 400 cesspools were emptied. The standard charge of 25s. for each 750 gallon load and the sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads remained the same. Higher charges are made for emptying cesspools in the surrounding districts and additional charges based on mileage.

The cesspool emptying vehicles were also used for desludging settlement tanks at the small sewage disposal works on housing sites, for cleansing gullies on the Council's estate roads and for flushing and cleansing public sewers and drains.

3. (3). **Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

(a) **Housing Inspections:**

Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	...	134
Re-inspections ...	...	...	28
Number of Preliminary Notices served ...	...	...	121
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	...	...	102
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ...	...	...	1

The cottage property in the area, with few exceptions, continues to deteriorate. The Housing (Improvement) Act, 1949, has not, up to the present, been operated in the district. Only 2 applications for assistance in the reconditioning of cottage property have been received by the Council since the passing of the Act, both these applications were refused.

It is felt that with the completion of the Council's present housing programme a large percentage of the demand for the provision of separate houses for every family will have been met. The natural sequence will be either the demolition or modernisation of many cottages in the area that fall far short of a desirable or indeed, a sanitary standard.

It is a problem that becomes increasingly apparent every year and is fundamentally an economic one.

(b) **Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	13	25	1	Nil
2. Section 7	35	38	—	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	48	63	1	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Defect	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were:—	
			Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	0	0
Overcrowding ..	0	0	0	0
Temperature ..	0	0	0	0
Ventilation ..	0	0	0	0
Drainage of floors ..	0	0	0	0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1	0	0
Defective sanitary accommodation	0	0	0	0
Other offences ..	0	0	0	0
Total ..	3	3	0	0

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) **Inspections under Regulations, etc.:**

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	106
Dumps, tips ...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Scavenging ...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Salvage ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	22
Food ...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	126
Shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Pumps, wells	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	191
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	151
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	231
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Meat from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	19
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	...	...	21
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	140
Total ...						1,684

As a result of the inspections recorded above, 52 informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of premises requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

3. (4). **Camping Sites.**—The annual licences for 5 sites used for the stationing of moveable dwellings were renewed by the Council. The sites were all maintained in a satisfactory condition and have mains water supply and adequate sanitary accommodation.

Licences were issued in respect of 25 single caravans that are stationed in various parts of the district; it is anticipated this number will fall as further houses become available in the area.

HOUSING

1 **Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		134
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		162
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		30
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		37
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		55

2 **Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers		48
---	--------	----

3 Action under statutory powers during the year:—

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (a) | Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) | By owners | 0 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (b) | Proceedings under Public Health Acts:— | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) | By owners | 1 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |
| (c) | Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... | 1 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | 2 |
| (d) | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | 0 |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

Overcrowding.—The amount of overcrowding in the area based on the standard laid down in the Act is very low. The Council, wherever possible, re-house applicants for Council houses in the type of dwelling that will meet the future needs of their families. The overcrowding position in every parish is investigated when any Council houses are available for allocation.

Housing (General)

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of new houses since 1946:—

	Houses completed	Huts converted	Huts demolished
1946	18	—	—
1947	47	—	—
1948	50	20	—
1949	47	45	—
1950	47	—	4
1951	25	—	7
1952	56	—	14
	—	—	—
	290	65	25
	—	—	—

The total number of Council houses at the end of the year was 708 plus 40 temporary dwellings. More permanent houses were built in 1952 than any of the post-war years, and the Council decided on a future programme for the erection of a further 162 houses which, together with those under construction at the end of the year means that approximately 200 additional houses will be erected in the next few years.

Private development also increased in 1952; 26 new houses were completed and a further 21 were in various stages of development. Government Departments also erected nearly 100 houses, which although only available to service personnel, have further lessened the demand on local accommodation. It is anticipated that the demand for private licences will show a considerable decrease within the next few years, and the completion of the Council's present housing programme will, to a large extent satisfy the needs of the district as far as the provision of a separate house for each family is required. The problem of rehousing families from obsolescent and insanitary houses has still to be solved. The Rent Restrictions Act and the increasing cost of even the smaller types of houses now being erected will be the principal factors which will determine the speed at which such houses are replaced, either by the Council or private enterprise.

The Council, in 1952, decided to adopt the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and two advances were made to owners during the year, one in respect of an existing house and one for a new house.

A Demolition Order was made on one cottage during the year and 2 houses that had been condemned in previous years were demolished.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Following an outbreak of food poisoning in an adjacent district, specimens of faeces were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratories. The six specimens submitted were found to be negative.

(a) Milk Supply

The bulk of the milk retailed in the area is supplied and distributed by two firms both of whom operate high temperature short time Pasteurisation Plants.

There are 3 producer-retailers of farm-bottled Tuberculin Tested Milk who are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Supplementary and dealers' licences authorising the sale of milk under special designations were granted as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	6
Tuberculin Tested		6
Pasteurised		7
Sterilised		2

Eighteen samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service and examined for keeping quality. Seventeen of the samples were satisfactory, one unsatisfactory. Seventeen samples were also submitted to the laboratory of the Huntingdonshire Agricultural Executive Committee for similar examination; thirteen of these were unsatisfactory, subsequent action to rectify the conditions under which the milk was produced was left to the Agricultural Executive Committee as the authority authorised under the Milk and Dairy Regulations.

Forty-four samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for biological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. Two of the samples showed evidence of Tubercle Bacilli and one of both Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. The Veterinary Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were informed and as a result of their examinations one cow from each of three herds were slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order. In the case of one producer-retailer who sold raw milk, arrangements were made for the pasteurisation of the total yield from his herd, until the animal had been removed and dealt with by the Ministry under the Tuberculosis Order.

The milk from the other herds was normally sent for Pasteurisation.

(b) **Ice Cream.**—Routine sampling continued during the year and covered all the well-known brands sold in the district.

The results of the examination of the 29 samples taken were as follows:—

Grade I ...	...	...	...	...	27
Grade II ...	...	...	...	...	2
Grade III ...	...	...	...	...	0
Grade IV ...	...	...	...	...	0

One manufacturing licence was renewed during the year.

(c) **Meat and other Foods**

Number of licensed Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	10
Number of Butchers' Shops ...	...	...	12
Visits to Butchers' Shops ...	...	...	126
Total weight of meat condemned at Butchers' Shops and subsequently destroyed ...	...	...	117 lbs.

The licensed slaughter-houses were only used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs under licence from the Ministry of Food and for the emergency slaughter and dressing of casualty animals before consignment to the nearest Government allocation centre.

The inspection of meat at the Ministry of Food slaughter-house at St. Ives is carried out by the Department and the following tables summarise the inspection and condemnations during the year.

The number of cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* confirmed during the year was three, as against six cases in 1951. All were slight and released for sale after twenty-one days in cold storage.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1240	68	3183	1934
Number inspected	1240	68	3183	1934
(All diseases except tuberculosis):—				
Whole carcasses condemned..	8	2	7	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	275	3	173	348
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	22.8%	7.4%	5.6%	18.5%
(Tuberculosis only):—				
Whole carcasses condemned..	14	1	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	139	—	—	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.1%	1.4%	—	2.2%

Weights of Condemned Meat

			Condemnations				
			Number killed	Number of whole carcases	Weight of whole carcases	Weight of Parts and Organs	Total Weight
Cattle	..	..	1240	22	13617 lb.	12996 lb.	26613 lb.
Calves	..	..	68	3	427 lb.	67 lb.	494 lb.
Sheep and Lambs			3183	7	339 lb.	639 lb.	978 lb.
Pigs	..	..	1934	28	4046 lb.	2998 lb.	7044 lb.
Total ..			6425	60	18429 lb.	16700 lb.	35129 lb.

Total animals killed: 6,425.

Total meat condemned: 15 tons 13 cwt. 17 lbs.

Routine examination and condemnations of other foods were carried out and a wide variety of food was inspected.

Following a notification from London Port-Health Authority, 1,275 boxes of Australian apples were detained and samples submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The Analysts' reports indicated that the apples were contaminated with arsenic (15 parts per million) and lead (14 parts per million). After consultation with the Chelmsford Rural District Council, Public Health Department, the consignment was conditionally released for treatment by washing at a factory in that area.

The following list shows the amount of other foods which were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

11 tins of meat	...	...	...	8 lb.
14 tins of tomatoes	...	...	...	27 lb.
20 tins of milk	...	...	...	20 lb.
3 tins of fruit	...	...	...	3 lb.
4 tins of fish	...	...	...	2 lb.
2 tins of ham	...	...	...	30½ lb.
Cheese ..	...	...	...	14 lb.

Adulteration

The Huntingdon County Council are the primary authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration. No special circumstances arose where it was considered that any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

